

New News of Yesterday

By E. J. EDWARDS

Evarts and the Great Scientist

Senator's Problem in Natural Science
Propounded to Savant Who Was
Boring a Brilliant Company
at Dinner.

"I have been told many very interesting anecdotes about William M. Evarts, but I do not know any which illustrates the keen wit and the humor which were so prominent among the many characteristics of Mr. Evarts that compares with an incident which came under my own observation," said Gen. Charles S. Fairchild, who was secretary of the treasury in the latter half of President Cleveland's first administration.

"I was a guest at a dinner which was given in 1888, when Mr. Evarts was still in the senate, by a very prominent public official at Washington. It was, in the character of the men who were gathered around the table, perhaps as brilliant a dinner as any in which I participated while I was a member of Mr. Cleveland's administration. Senator Evarts was one of the most distinguished of the guests present; and, as usual at a dinner which Mr. Evarts graced with his presence, the best of good fellowship and a true feast of reason, and humor, and wit were the experiences of the guests.

"There happened to be at this dinner a man of great achievement as a scientist. He was, however, a good deal of a dry-as-dust, and he seemed to be disposed to inject science into the conversation, or to apply his own particular knowledge to every statement which was made. After awhile the persistence of this scientific gentleman palled a little upon the guests, although he himself seemed to be unaware of that fact. Not even the host, notwithstanding his perfect courtesy, was able fully to conceal his annoyance at these learned and scientific interpolations.

"At last Senator Evarts, who had been, apparently, a patient and earnest listener, addressed the man of science, saying:

"I have been much interested, professor, in what you have said; and it has occurred to me that possibly you may be able to explain a curious law of nature, which I, myself, have never been able to explain or to find anyone who could explain."

"I should be delighted," said the professor. "What is it?"

"Having attracted the attention of

the entire company in this way, Senator Evarts took from the cooler by his side a champagne bottle which contained perhaps a third of its original contents. He placed the bottle upon the table.

"Professor," he said, "I wish you would explain to us why it is that, in the lower part of any bottle containing spirituous liquors the greater strength is to be found. In other words, why the upper half of a bottle of champagne seems to be less stimulating than the lower half."

"The professor looked quizzically at the bottle of champagne a few moments.

"That is, indeed, a very interesting question; I never had it called to my attention before," he said at last. "I cannot at this moment offer more than a surmise in the way of explanation; but I should be happy to make a very careful investigation, first, to establish the fact as you state it, and, second, to discover the reason."

"Well," said Senator Evarts, "I think my own experience may aid you in establishing the accuracy of the fact; but, as I am not learned in any of the sciences, I am utterly at loss as to the explanation."

Solved Problem For Morse

How Peter Cooper Invented the Glass
Insulator Which Made Possible
the Stringing of Electric Tel-
egraph Wires Above Ground.

I told recently an anecdote which was narrated to me by the late Abram S. Hewitt, mayor of New York from 1857-1888, describing the manner in which his father-in-law, Peter Cooper, the philanthropist, invented an apparatus by means of which it was possible to lay the first Atlantic cable between the coast of Newfoundland and Ireland.

Mr. Cooper's interest in the electric telegraph began at a much earlier period than the time when Cyrus W. Field proposed to him and to several other men of capital that a company be organized to lay a telegraph cable upon the bed of the ocean, so that telegraphic communication could be established between the continent of Europe and the United States.

Made England Take Notice

John Neal of Portland Deliberately
and Successfully Undertook to
Make the British Read an
American Literary Work.

"My native city of Portland, Me., has been the birth place of a good many distinguished men, but of all of them I sometimes think I am proudest of John Neal," said Thomas B. Reed to me not long after he had resigned from congress and taken up his residence in New York city for the practice of law.

"I suppose you have never heard of John Neal; yet in the first half of the nineteenth century he was a voluminous writer of novels, one of the leading newspaper editors of the country, and a sympathetic adviser to all struggling young writers, among them Edgar Allan Poe. And he was a pioneer of American letters in England. He was, in fact, the first American who made an Englishman read an American literary work, and it is because he set out deliberately to do this that I am so proud of him. John Neal died in the centennial year, at the ripe old age of eighty-three, but years before that I had come to be numbered among his friends, and from his own lips I heard how he set about making England take notice of American writers.

"When John Neal was a young man there appeared in one of the English quarterly reviews the now historic question: 'Who reads an American book?' That question humiliated many Americans and it touched a raw spot in American life for more than half a century. It made John Neal especially angry. By that time he had written several works of fiction or semi-fiction and of biography, and so quite naturally he felt very keenly the slur implied in that British question.

"Well, several years after the question had been asked John Neal announced to his friends that he was going to England.

"What do you intend to do there?" they asked him.

"I am going to write as a Yankee something which will be published in Great Britain and which everybody who reads anything at all will be sure to read," he replied.

"But have you enough money to live on while writing and awaiting publication of your writings?" his friends asked, anxiously.

"I have," replied John Neal. "You may be sure that it will not be necessary for me to borrow or beg while I am in England."

"So John Neal sailed away for England and soon after he got there he wrote a series of articles—what we call personal sketches—describing the first five or six American presidents. These he offered to one or two of the quarterlies which were then the great standards of English critical literature, only to have them declined. At last he ventured into the office of Blackwood's Magazine and offered his manuscripts. There they were speedily accepted, and John Neal received what for that time was a very handsome check in payment for them.

"Moreover, all England read those sketches. It became widely known that a 'Yankee' had written them, and John Neal became a man of some literary distinction. And whenever he met a prominent Englishman who congratulated him upon his magazine articles he would invariably reply in a very kindly way. 'Well, at last you English people do read an American literary work, and now that we have broken the ice I think in the course of time you will read many more of them.'

"In due season John Neal returned to the United States and was occupied for the rest of his life in literary work. And I think it ought to be remembered that it was John Neal of Portland, Me., who was the first American to compel the people of Great Britain to read an American work. Soon after that all England was reading the novels of Fenimore Cooper."

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"What, then, has been your experience?" the professor asked.

"I can state it in a few words, professor," said Mr. Evarts. "I have upon many occasions observed that the first, or upper half of a bottle of champagne or other spirituous liquor did not begin to have the stimulating effect upon those who drank in my presence which the second, or lower, half of the bottle had upon them; so I have inferred that there must be some scientific law which explains why the upper half of a bottle of champagne, for instance, is less stimulating than the lower half."

"That is, indeed, an extraordinary fact," the professor replied gravely. "I am greatly indebted to you for having called it to my attention. I shall proceed at once to make researches."

"And the professor actually did not see, what all the other guests readily perceived, that Senator Evarts was making sly fun of him, or that the reason was self-apparent why the second half of a bottle of champagne produced a far more stimulating effect than the first half."

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Let the Worst Come.

There is nothing worse for a man or woman than the possession of too much money.—Emporia Gazette.



MAKE FOR CONTRAST

ONE REASON WHY GAUZES REMAIN POPULAR.

Combined With Silks or Satins They Give the Effect Just Now So Much Desired—Novelties Among New Materials.

Transparent materials are just as prominent among the new fabrics as they have been for several seasons past. And from all advices to this hour, it seems that veillings are to be in quite as strong favor for fall and winter as they were for spring and summer. So long as the overskirt remains—and it is even more popular now than it was three months ago—fabrics of contrasting material will continue to appear in the wardrobe. And what is so effective in contrasts as silks or satins with gauzy weaves?

One of the fancies for the next season will undoubtedly be the veiling of brocades with chiffons, mousseline and thin marquisettes. Some of the new brocades provided for this use are passing lovely. Many of them are shot abundantly with gold in actual metal or colored silk, and the gleam of this metallic effect will greatly enhance the richness of handsome gowns. Some chiffons are shot with tinsels or are embroidered with it. Embroidered effects among the transparent materials are abundant.

For simpler gowns, the chiffons and their kind will continue to be used over stripes and checks and over changeable silks.

There are a good many novelties among the new materials. One of them is a velvet of tweed effect in the two-toned shot appearance of the sturdy wool. The result is not happy; but it is fashionable, which is the next thing. Changeable effects appear, not only among the new silks, but abundantly among the wools, even in the heavy suitings. And many of the two-toned wools which are mixed on one side and are plain on the other are shot or flecked with bright colors. Some of these color schemes are very effective. Dark tones with touches of bright color seem to be very much liked by the tailors, who are buying up pieces in which they predominate as fast as they come in. The double-faced satins are here once more and promise to make the handsomest coats and capes for the fall with the under color cropping out in trimmings and the hoods which are so prevalent. Even the sweater has taken to itself a hood, the hood usually being of the accessory color. One such sweater was white, with a band of tan color down the front and around the neck, and the hood was of the tan. Big hoods are evidently coming in again for cold weather wraps.

TAFFETA IS BACK IN FAVOR

Parisian Modistes Have Again Taken Up Material Once So Deservedly Popular.

Best and most fashionable of all materials is our old friend taffeta. At present it is used in Paris for tailored suits, afternoon frocks and wraps, and a wonderful material it is, being soft in weave and of high luster. It runs almost forty-three inches in width and the price is high, from \$2.35 to \$2.70 a yard, but it will doubtless be reduced to meet the average purse before long.

BAG KEEPS SILVER BRIGHT

Articles That Are Easily Discolored or Scratched Should Be Thus Protected.

The housewife who delights to keep the silver teapot, sugar basin and milk jug in a bright and spotless condition, will find a bag of the kind shown in our sketch a great help. It is made of green baize and lined with soft wash-leather and drawn up at the neck on tape. It should be made amply large enough for the article it is to contain, and that for the teapot should be of the shape shown in the small sketch on the left hand side when empty.

Bags of this nature not only help to keep silver articles bright, but are also a great protection from possible scratches and dents. Initials would look well on the dark green baize, worked in silk of an old gold color.

Bags made of wash-leather only will answer their purpose perfectly well, but with a covering of baize they will last much longer, and are a greater protection to silver articles

duced to meet the average purse before long.

This return to favor is doubtless to be expected after the long run of satin, which is still popular by the way, and nothing, after all is said, quite takes the place of the light silk frock. The new taffeta, which the fashionable French women are now wearing, are in navy blues, deep bright blues, coronation red, royal purple, greens, tans and lemon colors, as well as copper yellow and purple blue.

Handsome frocks have the taffeta used as a foundation with veillings of lace and chiffon, while wonderful evening gowns are made from the soft finished light weight grades, though the great vogue of the minute is the navy blue or black taffeta tailored suit.

DAINTY EVENING COAT.



Elaborate and sumptuous effects are not for the little debutante, who is at her sweetest in simple attire. This charming evening coat is made of pure white permo fabric, a lustrous, silky combination of wool with fine mohair threads, and the lining is white satin of soft, rich quality. The coat has the fashionable lines—rather roomy across the shoulders and tapering to a two-yard width at the bottom. On the wide revers, which are extensions at the sides of a broad sailor collar, are ornaments of white silk cord.

Freshening Frills.

Do you wear one of those large frilled muslin jabots with a coat and skirt that look so smart and fresh? There is always trouble about them, because they so soon grow soiled and the laundress tears them all to rags when washed.

A friend who dresses smartly on a small allowance told me how she manages. Get five cents' worth of powdered magnesia and keep it in one of those little pepper sifters with holes at the top.

Whenever you take off one of the frills pepper it all over with magnesia and lay it in a box which is reserved for frills only.

Before putting it on again brush it with a tiny soft brush. Then the magnesia comes away and brings all the dust and smuts with it.

You can wear a frill a dozen times and it looks quite fresh to the end.

when placed together in a drawer or cupboard.

For small silver articles, little leather bags are quite sufficient, but in all



cases the bag should be large enough to entirely inclose the article and in a measure keep the air from it and so prevent it tarnishing.

Most men think they are ambitious because they find fault with their present condition.